VIETNAM COURIER

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★ **On January 5, 1968 at 4 a.m., North Viet Nam A.A. defence grounded the 2,700th U.S. plane, an A.6** *Intruder.*

Up to that day 2,704 American aircraft were downed over the D.R.V.N.

1967 GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE U.S. AGGRESSORS

SOUTH Vietnam

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES:

Put out of Action:

MY SOLDIERS (268,000 in 1966) Including 170.000 GIs and Satellite Troops (966);

(40 in 1966) Including 44 Infantry Battalions (17 U.S., 1 Satellite), 6 Artillery appers' Battalions;

SQUADRONS (7 in 1966);

(306 in 1966) Including 378 Infantry Battalions (107 U.S., 7 Satellite), 7 lions, 14 Armoured Battalions;

NS (454 in 1966) Including 164 American Companies;

Destroyed, Burnt, Damaged, Downed or Sank:

Helicopters (2,130 in 1966), 8,500 Military Vehicles (3,300 in 1966) Including ed Vehicles (1,200 in 1966), 730 Heavy Guns, 200 War Vessels and Craft (97 ocomotives and 101 Carriages, 560 Bridges...

(*Giai Phong Press Agency* figures)

NORTH Vietnam

— 1,064 *U.S. AIRCRAFT* (Nearly All of Them Being Jet Fighter-Bombers) *DOWNED* (774 in 1966)

— 65 ENEMY SHIPS SET AFIRE, DAMAGED OR SUNK.

— Topping the List of Aircraft Hunting in the Year: Hanoi (176 Planes), Ph (92) and Quang Binh (128).

— Gloomiest Months for the Enemy Air Force: August (166 Planes Downed), M (1[illegible]), October (1[illegible]) and November (131).

— The Most Successful Days for Our A.A. Defence: November 19 (19 25 (16) and November 20 (15).

— Three New Types of U.S. Aircraft Downed Including B.52 Strategic Bo

— THE MOST BRILLIANT EXPLOITS OF THE DEFENCE:

★ *A.A. DEFENCE*: Downed 4 Planes within 5 Minutes on Oct. 17 ov *Phantom* on the Night of Aug. 17 with 12 Rifle Shots.

★ *FIGHTER PLANES*: Downed 5 Aircraft in One Day (April 30).

★ *MISSILE UNITS*: Achieved Most Brilliant Exploits in May, October

★ *WORKER AND PEASANT MILITIA*: Downed 28 Planes in November, Br U.S. Planes Including the Fighter-Bombers *Phantom* and *Thunderchief* and 'Pilotless

Many Units Entirely Composed of Young Girls or White-Haired Men Do Infantry Weapons.

A U.S. Plane Was Downed on Dec. 27 by 3 Rifle Shots.

★ *COASTAL DEFENCE ARTILLERY*: Hit 3 U.S. Vessels on May 18 and

JOHNSON'S HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

ON December 19 last, before going to Australia to attend Australian Premier Holt's memorial service, Johnson in a press interview again harped on the old arguments he had used at San Antonio in September 1967. We give below a translation of the commentary published in the daily Nhan Dan—Ed.

IN April 1965, as many people still remember, while sending hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops to South Viet Nam to shift the American imperialists' neo-colonialist aggressive war from a "special war" into a "local war", Johnson in his Baltimore speech talked about humanity and justice in pathetic tones. And since then, every time he was attacked by public opinion, the sorcerer donning the coat of a chivalrous knight tried to sell his magic drugs. Only a few months ago, he said: "We are in Viet Nam because we want that small country to have self-determination" or: "In Viet Nam, we Americans once again raise our voices to defend man's inviolable rights." Praising the American troops' "chivalrous" deeds, Johnson said that the American imperialists' presence in South Viet Nam is due to the fact that they want "freedom" for the world. Combining sham "humanity" with fraudulent "legal" arguments, he keeps repeating: "We must keep our commitments not only for the sake of South Viet Nam but also of our 40 allies."

But the "humane" and "chivalrous" talks of the head of the ruling machinery of the U.S. have had no effect whatsoever. Nobody could possibly believe that the South Vietnamese people have been shedding their blood to commit "aggression" on South Viet Nam, whereas the American imperialists who have come from 20,000 kilometres away with bombs, shells and toxic chemicals to massacre the South Viet Nam people, aim at "opposing aggression." Whatever mask the U.S. imperialists may wear, their true colours as aggressors and those of their Saigon puppets as traitors to their country are becoming ever more transparent. The "self-determination" the Americans want to safeguard for the regime they have created is but American controlled "self-determination." Man's "inviolable rights" and "freedom" the U.S. imperialists have been ranting about are but their own rights and freedom to oppress, exploit and enslave the people of other countries.

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THEIR arguments having failed pitifully, the U.S. imperialists brazenly assume the role of an international gendarme. They boast that they are responsible for the world's security and peace. Johnson has said hundreds of times that U.S. troops have been fighting in South Viet Nam in order to "ward off the danger of a third World War." Humphrey, his closest associate, has disclosed in the most shameless manner the will of the U.S. imperialists to act as an international gendarme. He said that even if South Viet Nam asked for no such presence and however strongly the U.S. people opposed it, "the U.S. will have to stay in South Viet Nam."

The stupid Johnson clique have put too much faith in the power of the U.S. as a gendarme. They believe that even if there is no valid argument to back this action, they can just act fast on the strength of their power and use bombs and shells to drown the voice of justice. But facts have thwarted their wish. While they pose as guardians of security and peace, everybody has seen that wherever they go, security and peace are destroyed, the people exploited and terrorized and savagely murdered, the human soul poisoned, depravity and crime rampant. On the contrary, wherever their rule has been overthrown, the struggle for security and peace grows ever more successful, and man's dignity is raised in the process of the building of a new life. That is why all men of conscience have severely condemned the U.S. imperialists' role as an international gendarme. The American people themselves have ever more loudly cursed the Johnson clique's action taken under the signboard of the "safeguarding of security and peace" outside the U.S. The American youth and labouring people cannot allow the U.S. imperialists to squander their blood on such criminal adventures.

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FURTHERMORE, the deeper the Johnson clique gets involved in their war of aggression, the weaker their arguments, and the more dangerous their position. Their rash actions have plunged them into an abyss. Over the year of "local war" in South Viet Nam and war of destruction against North Viet Nam, they have suffered repeated and ever heavier failures. Although they have mustered over a million troops, among them nearly half a million U.S. troops, the White House and the Pentagon are still seriously short of manpower. Although they have used all kinds of available weapons and war means, they are still mired down in a morass. Driven to an impasse and deprived of all initiative, they have not only failed to rescue their valets but have been driven to the point where they are asking themselves in perplexity and panic how they could even save themselves. Seeking to send more sons of the American people to the battlefield, they try to confuse the issue and make the latter believe that the danger facing them, the U.S. imperialists, is also one for the American people, the American nation. They talk no more of safeguarding other peoples' security, but of defending American security. From September 1967 up to now, especially after the U.S. President's speech at San Antonio, the Johnson-Humphrey-Rusk clique have repeatedly put forth that argument. They said: "The sending of U.S. troops to the war in Viet Nam is aimed at safeguarding the American people's vital interests" or "The focus of all our actions in Viet Nam is our own security," and "Our aim in Viet Nam is clear: to defend American security."

Indeed, those are the screams of gangsters and assassins, being exposed and clubbed. Could the world people, especially the American people, ever believe that the South Viet Nam people, who deeply aspire for independence and freedom and are waging a grim struggle for self-liberation, could possibly undermine the "security and vital interests" of the United States, half the earth away? That kind of "security and vital interests" could only be those of the U.S. imperialist aggressors of that neo-colonialism they have been trying to impose on many places.

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EVEN among U.S. ruling circles, bourgeois politicians and religious people, the Johnson clique's arguments have been disposed of. For long, Senator W. Morse has been denouncing American action in Viet Nam as "an illegal, immoral, wholly injustifiable military intervention" and saying that "American inhuman actions in South-East Asia are inexcusable crimes." Senator Mc Govern has dismissed Johnson's equivocal thesis: "There is no question," he said, "of U.S. interests or political freedom compelling the U.S. to send troops and bombers to Viet Nam" and "The American war in Viet Nam is the most unjust, illegal, and immoral of American wars." Senator W. Fulbright has also said: "Everywhere in the world, American intervention in Viet Nam has been condemned... The true problem in Viet Nam is not American security... The U.S. must recognize its error and set it to right." Bishop James Pike has explicitly called the Americans in Viet Nam "aggressors," and K. Galbraith has said: "In Viet Nam, the Americans only represent neo-colonialism." Those who oppose Johnson and his clique not only hit hard at their fraudulent arguments but also reveal their dangerous position and the damage done to the U.S. by the war of aggression in Viet Nam. Martin Luther King said: "The promise of a Great Society has sunk in the ocean of Asia on account of Viet Nam." Senator W. Fulbright said: "The war in Viet Nam is poisoning the life of our nation with the result that the Great Society has become a Sick Society." Governor G. Romney of Michigan, an adversary of Johnson in the coming presidential elections, has also called on public opinion to condemn Johnson: "The Viet Nam war sacrifices our young men and drains our resources with no end in sight... At present, the U.S. is being regarded by the people everywhere as a warmonger and oppressor."

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THE Johnson clique have been trying to steady their nerves and make a show of optimism. But everybody can see that they are struck with panic and fear. They are suffering crushing defeats on the ground in the South and in the sky of the North. They are also cringing before the onslaughts of American and world public opinion. Their oblique arguments deceive nobody but only prove their mulishness in rushing headlong into new adventures fraught with more crimes in Viet Nam and more damage to the American people. Raising high the banner of justice, and answering the call of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation for a victorious Winter-Spring campaign, the Vietnamese people are courageously advancing with the watchword: "Everything for victory over U.S. aggression!"

For the sake of the honour of the United States and their own interests, the American people have shown ever greater solidarity with the world peoples in their active support of the Vietnamese people. Whatever manoeuvres they may resort to, the U.S. aggressors cannot escape total failure. The more obstinate, deceitful and barbarous they become, the more pitiful their final defeat.

American Aircraft Attacked the D.R.V.N. on New Year's Day

THE spokesman of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry denounced on January 2, 1968 that U.S. planes had carried out reconnaissance missions and struck at a number of localities of the D.R.V.N. on New Year's Day.

From 8 p.m. of Dec. 31, 1967 to 3 p.m. of Jan. 1, 1968, U.S. planes violated the D.R.V.N. air space, carrying out reconnaissance missions over Vinh Linh areas and the provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An and Ninh Binh, and attacked some populated regions of Quang Xuong district (Thanh Hoa province), and Hai Hau district (Nam Ha province). An F.4 was downed over Thanh Hoa.

The spokesman pointed out that like the air raids and naval bombardments of the U.S. aggressors on Dec. 25, 1967, all these above-mentioned acts expose the deceitful announcement of the U.S. to suspend the bombing of North Viet Nam on Christmas and New Year's Day.

MONGOLIAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION WARMLY WELCOMED

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and D.R.V.N. Government, the delegation of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and Government of the People's Republic of Mongolia, headed by Sonomyn Luvsan, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the M.P.R.P. and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the P.R. of Mongolia, paid a visit to the D.R.V.N.

The Mongolian delegation was warmly welcomed by the Viet Nam Workers' Party C.C. and the D.R.V.N. Government.

In his welcome speech, Vice-Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh said that at a time when the U.S. imperialists were frenziedly intensifying and expanding their war of aggression in Viet Nam, the visit of the Mongolian Party and Government delegation to Viet Nam was a splendid manifestation of the militant solidarity of the fraternal Mongolian people with the Vietnamese people.

He spoke highly of the glorious revolutionary struggle of the Mongolian people who, under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, are zealously carrying out the 4th five-year plan (1966-1970) set forth by the 15th Congress of the M.P.R.P. with a view to reaching an important stage of socialist industrialization in Mongolia.

He said, "The Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at the achievements of the brother Mongolian people and sincerely wish the latter many greater successes in socialist construction so as to make Mongolia more and more prosperous, thus contributing to the strengthening of the socialist camp and the defence of peace in Asia and the rest of the world."

Referring to the struggle of the Vietnamese people and their victories over the U.S. imperialists, Vice Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh said:

"The stand of the Vietnamese people is quite clear. That is the 4-point stand of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. That is the basis for the settlement of the Viet Nam question.

"The U.S. government has unceasingly claimed that it wants to talk with Hanoi but has received no response. If the U.S. government truly wants to talk, it must, as was made clear in our statement on January 28, 1967, first of all stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. After the U.S. has ended unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., the D.R.V.N. will hold talks with the U.S. on question concerned.

"The Vietnamese people deeply cherish peace, but it must be a peace in genuine independence and freedom. So long as the U.S. imperialists obdurately pursue their war of aggression, our 31 million compatriots in both zones, in response to the sacred appeal of President Ho Chi Minh on December 25, 1967, are determined to fight the U.S. aggressors in order to defend the North, liberate the South and advance towards the peaceful reunification of the country. The Vietnamese people will win! The U.S. imperialist aggressors will be defeated!"

Vice-Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh went on, "The D.R.V.N. Government sternly condemns the odious slanders and schemes of aggression of the U.S. against the Kingdom of Cambodia. It reaffirms the unstinted support of the Vietnamese people to the just struggle of the Cambodian people led by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, to safeguard the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

"The D.R.V.N. strongly condemns the military intervention in Laos by the U.S. and its systematic sabotage of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos; it demands that the U.S. and its valets correctly implement these agreements and strictly respect the independence, sovereignty and neutrality of Laos."

Vice-Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh extended heartfelt thanks of the Vietnamese people, the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the D.R.V.N. to the Mongolian people, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic for their active support to the Vietnamese people with a view to helping increase the economic and defence potentials of the D.R.V.N.

He went on: "The Vietnamese people rejoice to see that the militant solidarity and fraternal co-operation between Viet Nam and Mongolia strengthen and develop unceasingly. The Vietnamese people are determined to do their utmost to further tighten this friendly solidarity for the interests of the peoples of our two countries, the socialist camp, peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world."

In his speech of reply, Sonomyn Luvsan said: "The Mongolian people rejoice at the successes of the patriots in South Viet Nam who are dealing the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen heavy blows. They rejoice to see that the day of your victory over the enemy is approaching.

"On behalf of the Central Committee of the M.P.R.P., the M.P.R. Government and the Mongolian people, the Mongolian Party and Government delegation once again solemnly declares that the Mongolian Party, Government and people will continue its persistent support for the four-point stand of the D.R.V.N. Government regarding the settlement of the Viet Nam question as well as the Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

"The people of our country are determined to continue to do all they can to support the Vietnamese brothers in their just struggle to save the country.

"The Mongolian people and Government sternly condemn all activities and acts of the aggressors aimed at confusing world public opinion."

IN THE UNITED STATES

POWERFUL DEVELOPMENT OF MASS STRUGGLE AGAINST JOHNSON WAR IN 1967

A N outstanding feature of the situation in the U.S. in the whole year of 1967 was the uninterrupted and powerful development of the movement of the American people against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam. This movement has become part and parcel of U.S. political and social life, and, as assessed by the American and Western press, "the biggest anti-war movement ever known in U.S. history."

The more obstinacy the American imperialists display in stepping up their aggressive war in Viet Nam, the more Americans join the anti-war movement. In 1967 a large number of Americans belonging to various social strata took an active part in many actions for an end to the war. Right at the beginning of the year, they already put up the slogan: "U.S. unjust war in Viet Nam must be opposed, the time has come when silence means treason. To this effect side by side with the youth, black students, and workers — the most active in the struggle —, tens of thousands of women, professors, doctors, men of letters, artists and clergymen took part in meetings and demonstrations, issued declarations or wrote open letters condemning the U.S. administration's policy of aggression. Hundreds of businessmen also raised their voices, demanding that the war be stopped. The three large demonstrations — to mention only these — which took place in Washington and New York in April, October and December 1967, rallied one million people. Some "end the war" open letters to Johnson were signed by one million people. Many trade-union organizations numbering millions of members adopted resolutions condemning U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. Many thousand members of the Democratic Party published declarations condemning Johnson's policy of aggression.

It is safe to say that the activities undertaken by the American people last year in protest against the aggressive war in Viet Nam took place uninterruptedly almost every day, in almost every U.S. American city. Diversified as they were and used to show unequivocally their indignation at the U.S. rulers' unjust and criminal war. The youth of Boston staged a 45-day march to Washington. American youths and students organized a torchlight procession from Hiroshima, where the U.S. imperialists had dropped the first A bomb, to the White House in Washington, covering a distance of 4,800km across hundreds of American cities, to denounce Johnson's crime of aggression. American men of letters and artists held a "Hate the war of aggression in Viet Nam" Week. Anti-Johnson leaflets were distributed in U.S. Congress premises. More than a million Americans in 412 towns and cities of 37 states fasted for several days as a protest against the aggressive war. More Americans burnt themselves to death so as to mark their indignation at U.S. war crimes in Viet Nam.

In all demonstrations the slogans put forth by the American people hinged on the demand that the U.S. government terminate its war of aggression, stop the bombing of North Viet Nam, withdraw American troops from South Viet Nam, recognize the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs themselves. American youths chanted: "Down with Johnson!", "We are resolutely against the draft." American women shouted: "Bring home our husbands and sons!", "Bring back U.S. troops!", "Don't drop bombs, drop Rusk and McNamara!" Black Americans cried: "Viet Nam is our friend, U.S. imperialism is our enemy!" American students demanded: "Viet Nam for the Vietnamese!" and wished: "Victory to the Vietnamese people!" In many rallies the demonstraters carried the D.R.V.N. and the N.F.L. flags to affirm their support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people.

While putting forward those slogans the American youths concentrated their anti-war activities on the "stop the draft" drive, preventing the U.S. administration to dispatch young Americans to Viet Nam as cannon-fodder. In a series of demonstrations boys and girls, women and common people encircled draft centres and naval bases for Viet Nam-bound

(Continued page 7)

Demonstration in Washington on October 21, 1967

RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's APPEAL

EACH CITIZEN IS RESOLVED TO BEAT THE YANKEES

At the meeting marking the setting up of the first nucleus of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22, 1944), the first Nationwide Resistance War (Dec.19, 1946), and the founding of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. (Dec. 20, 1960), President Ho Chi Minh called on our 31 million compatriots in both zones "to beat the Yankees and fight until final victory." This appeal has aroused a powerful wave of enthusiasm among various sections of our people. — *Ed.*

An A.A. Gunner:

Stronger after each battle and better prepared to win bigger victories

"LAST year, our battery did not miss any occasion to down U.S. planes. Hardly had we been moved to Hanoi and entrusted with the task of defending part of its sky when, together with other units of our team, we brought down an F.105 with 22 shells. The next day, after two short salvoes, we grounded an F.8.

Responding to President Ho Chi Minh's call, we are resolved to excel one another. Each of us has worked out a training programme to become stronger after each battle, to prepare ourselves to strike at the enemy in whatever weather and never to miss him."

TRAN ANH TUAN
Head of an A.A. battery (Hanoi)

A Lorry Driver:

American bombs cannot prevent us from working

OUR lorry drivers' team is assigned to the transport of goods on a road hard hit by the enemy. We worked with courage and initiative and have been therefore rewarded by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

After hearing President Ho Chi Minh's speech, our team has promised to the Party, government and President Ho Chi Minh to unite more closely and redouble our efforts in order to achieve new successes on the supply front, and in the near future, to overfulfil the plan of the first quarter of 1968. However atrocious the means used by the American aggressors, they can never make us flinch."

NGUYEN VAN DUNG
Head of the 28th brigade of lorry drivers

A Docker:

So many workers, so many victors of the Yankees

"SINCE the American aggressors unleashed their war of aggression against the D.R.V.N., straying our ships on rivers and at sea, thus hampering the activity of our port, we have been working in most arduous and dangerous conditions. Overcoming all difficulties, we fulfilled the 1967 plan 45 days ahead of schedule.

In response to the appeal of the Party and our beloved President Ho Chi Minh, each of us is resolved to redouble his efforts, surmount all difficulties, beat the Yankees, in order to be worthy of the revolutionary traditions of the working class of Hai Phong port and of our heroic people."

LUU XUAN PHE
Head of the 44th team of dockers at Hai Phong port.

A Woman Worker:

Plan overfulfilled month after month

"SINCE the July 17, 1966 appeal of President Ho Chi Minh, our women turners' team has buckled down to learning technique and succeeded in handling all machines of this kind in our workshop with initiative. We have been month after month overfulfilling the state plan and have fulfilled the 1967 plan one month ahead of schedule. Responding to his recent appeal, we promise to President Ho Chi Minh to raise further our output and, vying with our sisters in the South, to do our best so as to become 'victors of the Yankee.'"

NGUYEN THI VAN
Head of a women turners' team, K.T. engineering works (Hai Phong)

A Country Woman:

A kilogramme of paddy or meat more

"RESPONDING to President Ho Chi Minh's July 17, 1966 appeal, our co-operative has harvested two bumper crops, raising the yearly yield of paddy from 5,400 kg in 1966 to 6,200 kg in 1967. Our production team obtained the highest yield, and has therefore been proposed as a socialist work team.

After hearing the appeal by President Ho Chi Minh, our teammates have, with emotion and enthusiasm, promised to do better. We are quite aware that a kilogramme of paddy or meat more is a bullet fired at the American aggressor.

Insofar as the women in our team are concerned, they take charge of all housework, of their co-operatives and of the fighting, in order to enable their husbands and sons to join the army."

LE THI THAO
Head of a production team in an agricultural co-operative in Ha Tay

BIG SUCCESSES IN PRODUCTION

PHAN QUANG

NEARLY three years have elapsed since the U.S. imperialists launched their war of destruction against the D.R.V.N. in an attempt to compel us to comply with their diktat or "to return to the Stone Age." During these three years, they used the most barbarous war means, heaping crime upon crime; during these three years our people experienced the hardest trial but gloriously carried the day.

Over 2,700 U. S. planes, including B.52 strategic bombers, were downed in the D.R.V.N. Dozens of U.S. war vessels were sunk or damaged by our coastal defence. And despite the efforts made by the U.S. air force and navy to destroy our economic bases, we recorded big achievements in production.

The successful completion of our various economic plans played a decisive role in the fulfilment of the political tasks of our revolution at the present stage, i.e. to defeat the U.S. aggressors and continue to set up the material and technical bases of socialism. In fact, after three years of war, not only North Vietnam's economy remains steady, but its potential increases day by day, production continues to make headway and the living conditions of the population are stable in the main. North Viet Nam has discharged more and more satisfactorily her task as the solid rear on which the South can rely to win the war.

Substantial progress was recorded in agriculture which is the main branch of activity of the majority of our people. At present, 91 per cent of peasant households have joined co-operatives of which about 80 per cent have been shifted to a higher level, becoming entirely socialist units of production in which the land and other means of production belong to the collectivity and the income is distributed according to the amount of work done. By this way, conditions are created to boost production and at the same time to encourage the peasants to take part in the struggle.

Over the past few years, the government has earmarked for agriculture 18 per cent of the total amount of investments reserved for economic and cultural activities. The irrigation network was expanded. The quantity of farm implements and fertilizers increased considerably. In three years, 5,500 agricultural co-operatives have been equipped with small engineering stations.

Thanks to strenuous efforts made by the collective farmers and to the ever-increasing assistance given by industry, the productivity of the land has been raised greatly. In 1964, the year before the U.S. unleashed its war of destruction against the D.R.V.N., only two districts harvested annually 5 tons of paddy per hectare. In 1967, despite unfavourable climatic conditions, one province, one municipality and over 40 districts obtained 5 tons. At present, half of the farmland in the Bac Bo delta — the granary of North Viet Nam — has reached this target. Many co-operatives have reaped 6, 7 or even 8 tons of paddy per hectare per year.

A good rice harvest in a co-operative

Parallel with the rising in the yield of paddy, animal husbandry continued to forge ahead. The acreage grown with vegetables and proteinic plants such as soya bean and pea-nut increased day by day, thus making it possible for us to improve the ration of the inhabitants.

In three years, the area covered by afforestation doubled that obtained during the previous four years taken together.

In industry, though big enterprises were fat targets of U.S. aircraft, the workers managed to keep production going by reorganizing it on a war footing. A great number of regional industrial enterprises were set up; hundreds of them were commissioned and supplied to agriculture and the people's needs an ever-increasing volume of commodities. It is worth noticing that the production of engineering goods and staple commodities has increased rapidly year after year. A last, to pave the way for a swift economic growth in the year to come, great attention has been paid to investigation work, geological researches and the formation of cadres and technicians.

Transport and communications which is an arduous battle-front performed brilliant feats of arms every day. Despite thousands of tons of bombs released day and night by American aircraft, our communication lines were always open to traffic.

Thanks to a ceaseless improvement in the distribution of goods, the living conditions of the people remained stable and even make notable progress in many cases despite the state of war.

As we have just outlined, the successes achieved by our people in the economic field are remarkable testimonies of our revolutionary heroism. These successes also testify to the soundness of our Party's and government's policy on economic construction, a policy quite suitable to the conditions of the war. They are also the outcome of a very important disinterested aid granted by the brother socialist countries.

In the flush of their victories, our 17 million compatriots, in response to President Ho Chi Minh's recent appeal, are resolved to carry through the 1968 state plan and to become "victors of the Yankees" in the field of production just as in the battlefield.

An old worker training the young generation

LIKE a bold outpost, the pumping station of the power plant stood on the bank of the river. It was surrounded with bomb craters. The whole area had been ploughed up by American bombs.

Through a window, a young worker saw the plant, a big building of concrete and steel standing out against the sky.

All of a sudden, bursts of guns were heard, bombs exploded. A bomb blast threw the man against the wall. The current "flickered," the machine stopped. He jumped to his feet and ran to it to set it back in motion.

Manager Do, a rather small man about forty, dressed in blue, stood at a place commanding a general view of the station. The work was going on.

Cutting the air with his hand, he shouted an order: "Fire!"

The self-defence unit shot at aircraft coming from over the river. A cluster of bombs was dropped. Defence works shook violently and were shrouded in a rain of earth and coal dust. Seeing a fire break out, Do wanted to go out. But a worker stopped him, saying: "Don't. Sit down!"

Do tore himself away and jumped out of his shelter, calling out: "Comrades, see to the machines."

He dashed to the fire site, up a slope, followed by dozens of people. Spades, picks, mud, sand, everything to quench the fire had been gathered. With burnt hair and cheeks and noses black with soot, the men moved in a cloud of dense smoke.

Meanwhile, the power station was buzzing on. In the central room, Minh, Han, Khue... calmly handle a sophisticated network of knobs, valves and lamps.

After manning his machine for 37 minutes, Que lost consciousness and lay by it. Thanh went upstairs to evacuate his comrade and replace him at the machine, controlling it and defending it with his rifle. From an exposed position, electrician Le Trinh and some other people jumped over bomb craters to help those half buried in earth. His arm being broken by a splinter, he was immediately relieved by another worker. The stokers too did not lose their sang-froid. The electric stream flowed on.

KEEPING THE ELECTRIC CURRENT FLOWING

Since the beginning of U.S. "escalation" against North Viet Nam U.S. planes have been striking at our economic establishments, particularly our power stations. What is going on in those works attacked scores of times? The following report will give our readers an idea of the determination and creative spirit of workers who have valiantly faced the U.S. aggressors and overcomb every difficulty to keep the electric current flowing to serve the fighting, production and the people's life. —Ed.

THE station had been attacked wave after wave, some lasting for a whole week. Even grass had been burnt.

Workers had said to Do: "Let's ask to go up."

He had answered: "Comrades, the battlefield is here, the frontline is here. Our machines are anti-U.S. fortresses. Our last battle has not yet taken place. Irrigation work depends on us. Thousands of factory workers, armymen, townsfolks rely on us."

The production teams of the station — nearly twenty in all — had been merged into some brigades.

The motto was: "Working is fighting. Limit casualties. Allot heavy tasks to strong men, light tasks to elderly ones. Let brisk ones work on high and weak ones on the ground."

In some places, fragments of concrete dangling from steel frames were blasted down to the ground by bombs exploding nearby and could provoke serious accidents. They had to be got rid of. Withoutscaffoldings, volunteers equipped with safety belts climbed up right angled walls, sticking to any improvised peg to cut off with blow-pipes pieces of steel bearing concrete or to break up concrete blocks with strong iron sticks.

After each bombing, the works was gradually put back in operation.

At a new stage of the works plan, Do proposed to move machines to other places. People found the idea interesting, but daring and very difficult. Someone suggested: "We have to ask for the help of the Central Planning Institute."

Do replied: "Comrades, we must do it ourselves. We have engineers, cadres, technicians. We must fight the American aggressors with our own means."

Old workers said to him: "Difficult, but not impossible." Young ones promised to him: "If you have a sound plan, we volunteer to carry it out."

A technician asked him: "When do you take enough materials from for such an enterprise?"

Do answered, showing fragments of concrete and coils of entangled wire: "Here are our materials. The question is to assemble them together. Do you understand?"

His voice rang with enthusiasm.

Everybody replied, convinced: "Okay. We can do it."

Day and night, the personnel of the power station were pegging away at the new task. Old worker Le Kim Hong cautiously entered an underground floor, followed by engineers Canh and Tan, technician Khoat, young workers Dam, Duong, Tan, On... It was pitch dark. By the light of electric torches, they saw an entanglement of hundreds of cables bristled at their ends with bundles of small green, red, violet, yellow wires. There were intact cables linked to machines upstairs and damaged ones without connexion. This cable communicated with the frequency meter, that one came to machine A and B, that other one was meant for machines Y and X. One had to disentangle this whole mess into pieces, to move them to another place then to put them together again. The task was by no means easy.

It was however resolutely done, sometimes even during air raids.

Thus, machines had left the upper floors to be put out of harm's way; they had never stopped producing power.

While fighting the works succeeded in training ten production team leaders, five foremen, two assistant managers, and in promoting 25 second class workers to third and fourth classes ones. Simple workers could solder high pressure tubes and do other things which could be tackled before only by skilled workers or technicians. In spite of U.S. repeated bombings and strafings, there has not been any power failure for years.

The heroic electric current of men determined to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors can never be cut off.

SEVEN YEARS OF STORMY ADVANCE

(*Continued from page 8*)

July, 1965 hurriedly sent U.S. troops en masse to South Viet Nam. Since then the U.S. war of aggression has taken a new form — "local war."

Thus, on the battlefield, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam are coping not only with an organizationally and morally weak puppet army, but also with the most modern and most powerful army of the capitalist world — the U.S. expeditionary corps.

Starting in 1965 with 55,000 men the strength of the U.S. expeditionary corps has soared to the region of 500,000 at present.

So, putting together the U.S. expeditionary forces, the puppet army and the troops of U.S. satellites, the 14 million South Vietnamese people have now to fight over one million enemy troops.

Extremely ferocious by nature and relying on their great military potentials, the U.S. aggressors have stopped at no tricks nor methods in their attempt to subdue the South Vietnamese people.

They are attacking them furiously, using a monthly average of millions of cannon shells. They have used a bomb tonnage as destructive as the 2 atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagazaki put together.

Staking on such a huge armed strength and such a big firepower the U.S. aggressors threaten that they will "break the spine" of the "Viet Cong" (the Liberation main forces) in South Viet Nam and bomb the North Vietnamese people back to the "Stone Age."

In fact, it is the spine of the U.S. aggressors, not ours, that has been broken.

In North Viet Nam, many U.S. aircraft have been shot down, and many of the most seasoned American pilots have been killed or captured. This indeed is a slap in the faces of the professional liars.

Like a desperate gambler, the U.S. aggressors in October 1965 sent 180,000 additional American troops to South Viet Nam, bringing to a total of 700,000 the strength of the U.S. – puppet forces there.

To fight the big and modernly equipped aggressor army of the U.S. was something quite new to the South Vietnamese people. But, by drawing experiences while fighting, they have come to an extremely important conclusion: ***With their own way of fighting they are fully capable of wiping out whole infantry or motorized units of the U.S.***

As early as November 8, 1965 the South Vietnamese armed forces and people completely wiped out an American battalion at Dat Cuoc, in Thu Dau Mot province. Four days later, they destroyed a whole U.S. column at Bau Bang.

In the ***1965 Winter - 1966 Spring***, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people defeated the first "dry-season strategic counter-offensive" of the U.S., wiping out 110,000 enemy troops including over 40,000 U.S. and satellite troops totalling 30 battalions including 14 battalions of American and satellite infantry.

In unison with the victorious gun-booming on the battlefields, the people have risen up waves after waves in some 30 towns and provincial capitals to resist the Thieu-Ky clique, who have sold out the national interests to the U.S. aggressors, and demand the withdrawal of the U.S. aggressor army and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

In Hue city (Central Viet Nam.), the movement has drawn in broad sections of the people, and caused the disintegration of whole regiments of the puppet army.

In Da Nang city, the puppet administration disintegrated for over 2 months. In Saigon, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, thus disturbing this safest rear of the enemy for some time.

The inner contradictions within the puppet administration have grown deeper than ever before. Over the past years, under different signboards, the Thieu-Ky clique has continued to bar from its ranks members of the opponent parties by sending them abroad or putting them in jail or to death.

The aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists and the traitorous colours of their lackeys — the Thieu-Ky gang — have been laid bare before the South Vietnamese people.

Stepping into the ***1966 Winter—1967 Spring***, the U.S. aggressors beefed up their strength to 400,000 men, raising the total of U.S. and puppet troops to over one million, and considerably boosted the number of armoured cars, artillery pieces and combat aircraft. They worked out the "two prongs" strategic plan to "search and destroy" while "pacifying," with a view to securing a decisive victory.

Operation *Junction City* conducted against the northwestern part of Tay Ninh province may be described as the biggest operation of the U.S. aggressor troops in their second campaign against our armed forces and people. The operation, however, turned out to be a flop for the U.S.

During the 1966 Winter – 1967 Spring, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people wiped out 75,000 enemy troops including 70,000 G.I.s; put out of action 49 "pacification" or equivalent units including 9 American battalions and destroyed thousands of aircraft and hundreds of artillery pieces.

The enemy's "pacification" prong, too, was broken. Thousands of "pacification" cadres were killed, wounded or captured. Many "pacification" teams only existed on the paper. In practice, they did "pacify" even one village. Instead, U.S. General Landsdale was called back because of the failure of the program (which he directed—*Ed.*).

Since early 1967, the aggressors have applied a number of demagogic measures to give the puppet administration a coat of paint, namely by adopting the "constitution," holding the "elections to the presidency and vice-presidency, the senate and house of representatives."

But the "election" fraud was boycotted by the townsfolk and isolated the Thieu-Ky junta more than ever before. Their scheme to use a number of Catholic believers to sap the Buddhists' movement has failed. The struggle in the towns has grown in scope and depth and developed appropriately. The struggle of the Saigon port workers and the strike of the Eiffel company workers marked a new development. Many Liberation armed propaganda teams have been formed in various towns and provincial capitals. Armed and political struggles combined with agitation work among the puppet troops have surged up in the towns and cities.

According to still incomplete figures, in the two years ending December 13, 1967 during which they directly confronted the U.S. aggressors, the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F., put out of action nearly 800,000 enemy troops including nearly 300,000 G.I.s and satellite troops; wiped out 220 battalions and 684 companies of U.S. and puppet troops; shot down or destroyed on the ground 5,330 aircraft; crushed 11,800 military vehicles including 5,200 armoured cars; and sank 297 boats and motor launches. During this period, nearly 150,000 puppet troops deserted or broke their ranks.

Besides the big military victories, the political successes were also very great.

Despite fierce attacks by the enemy, our liberated areas have been consolidated. Production in general was maintained. The 1967 acreage under food crops for the whole of South Viet Nam did not diminish compared with 1966. The output somewhat increased in some areas as in the case of the Winter-Spring subsidiary crops in the Mekong Delta, and the off-season subsidiary crops in the mountain areas. In many of My Tho and Tra Vinh provinces, the paddy yield reached 3.2 tons per hectare. Irrigation work strongly developed in the Mekong Delta with canals and sluices doubling the 1966 and 1967 figures.

In the international arena, the prestige of the N.F.L. has been raised ever higher. The South Vietnamese people's just struggle enjoy the sympathy and support of hundreds of millions of people in the world including the American people. At present, the N.F.L. has either decided to establish or already established its representations in 15 countries. The Governments of Cuba, Cambodia, China and Korea have issued statements officially recognizing the Front's representatives as equal in status to the ambassadors of other foreign countries.

The ***Political Programme*** of the Front has been not only widely popularized in many countries but also circulated right in the United States. The Programme, has also been warmly welcomed and supported by leaders of the socialist and nationalist countries, international and mass organizations, and well-known politicians in all parts of the world.

Wherever they go, the American aggressors meet with traps set by the guerilla.

The movement against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam is surging in all countries.

In the U.S., in February 1967, more than one million Americans in 32 States organized a three-day fast in protest against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam.

On October 21, 1967, during the "End the War" week, delegates from 47 States converged to Washington to attend meetings and besiege the Pentagon to demand an end to the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam, and the repatriation of American troops.

Also on October 21, a demonstration against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam was held in Paris, with 100,000 participants, and another took place in Tokyo, with 60,000 participants...

FORWARD TO BIGGER VICTORIES

LOOKING back to the road travelled since the founding of the N.F.L., we may draw the following conclusions:

1 — The road the South Vietnamese people have been travelling is the right one.

As said above, the South Vietnamese people have won brilliant victories in their resistance against the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war. The southern part of our country has not yet a developed industry, its territory is not large and its yearly national income is far below that of even the poorest states of the U.S. Nevertheless, starting with rudimentary weapons, we have grown up and succeeded in wiping out even the task forces of the aggressor army. This invincible strength described by an American journalist as even stronger than nuclear bombs precisely stems from ***their patriotism***, and their ***hatred for the invaders.*** It has been organized along a correct line of ***people's war.*** The South Viet Nam N.F.L. is precisely the force which has organized, led and inspired the South Vietnamese people's struggle.

The victories of the South Vietnamese people are the victories of a correct line of struggle. This line has united the entire people in South Viet Nam in the fight against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation; it has developed to a high degree the revolutionary heroism and all the latent strength of the South Vietnamese people. It has won the greatest approval of the world peoples including the American people. It has isolated the enemy to a high degree, causing a sharp split and deep contradictions among the puppet administration, and the quick disintegration of the puppet army.

2 — With a scientific and creative spirit, the South Vietnamese people have found many ways to win victory in the fight against a cruel enemy possessed of a huge military potential.

The uprising of the people in Tra Bong area marked a new stage in the fight for self-liberation of the South Vietnamese people. At that time, however, the Tra Bong people who took to arms could not yet imagine the path and methods to be followed to overthrow the puppet administration throughout South Viet Nam.

In the high tide of concerted uprisings in the Mekong Delta which erupted in Ben Tre province, the South Vietnamese people have found a magic wand of struggle "Two Legs and Three Prongs" The following years of fierce fighting helped the South Vietnamese people realize more clearly the effect of this magic wand and promote it further. And with this, the South Vietnamese people have found a magic weapon to possess an extremely efficient weapon to defeat the U.S. imperialists' special war.

Facing the U.S. aggressors, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people could not at first avoid having to grope and try to find out the strong and weak points of an alien imperialist army. Through practical fighting, the South Vietnamese people have devised new methods of fighting in the conditions of a "local war." Following two dry seasons of testing strength with the enemy, we have found the way to defeat the U.S. ground troops, firmly grasped the key to control the battlefield. Through actual fighting, we have come to understand ever better the enemy and ourselves.

All this constitutes a basis for us to march forward to win still greater victories.

3 — The more the U.S. imperialists intensify their aggressive war, the more ignominious are their defeats. Through the statistics, we found that the more the U.S. aggressors step up their war, the heavier their setbacks, and their casualties in South Viet Nam grow in proportion to their build-up there.

During the period from 1962 to 1964, while the number of U.S. troops doubled, their casualty rate quadrupled.

Since 1965, the total of enemy casualties each year has surpassed that in the previous year by about 100,000, that of aircraft downed or destroyed by over 1,000 and that of armoured cars trebled. With 400,000 troops, U.S. casualties made up about one fourth, but with 470,000, the ratio reached one-third. We have been defeating nearly half a million U.S. troops. We are resolved to win, and we should defeat the U.S. troops even if their strength were to reach one million or more.

4 — The present situation of our struggle is extremely favourable.

The brilliant victories in the first months of the 1967 Winter - 1968 Spring have opened up bright prospects for the South Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation. We have spread the enemy forces to fight them on all battlefields, from Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces (near the 17th parallel) to the Mekong Delta, from the jungles of the Western High Plateaux to the stronghold in Saigon.

Our armed forces and people are firmly holding the initiative on the battlefield.

The U.S. officers directly commanding the aggressive war in South Viet Nam and the Pentagon strategists are raking their brains for a way out for their tactics and strategy which have gone bankrupt.

The hasty dispatch of 10,000 more troops to South Viet Nam is but a panicky act on the part of the aggressors in face of their stalemate and desperation.

Meeting with difficulty in troops increase, the U.S. aggressors are planning the modernization of the puppet army so as to enable it to take some of the blows in place of the G.I.'s. From using puppet troops as "house-mothers," the U.S. aggressors had to give them the role of "mobile strategic force." But the Yankees are building their castles on sand. ***The weakness of the puppet army does not lie in the lack of modern weapons. It is weak because it is a mercenary army.*** Within the first nine months of this year, nearly 50,000 puppet troops deserted or broke the ranks. After the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation was announced, many units of the puppet army declared that they would unite with the N.F.L. in fighting the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation.

To bolster up the puppet army is no measure to save the U.S. aggressors.

Within the ranks of the South Viet Nam ruling circles, there is a deep rift in the approach to the Viet Nam problem. The resignation of McNamara and that contemplated by Goldberg show confusion and conflicts of the forces now directing U.S. policy. According to commentaries in the Western press, all this points to the bankruptcy of a wishful appraisal of the Viet Nam situation, or, in more concrete terms, an appraisal based on the under-estimation of the strength of the South Vietnamese people.

Although the situation is very favourable to the South Vietnamese people, we are fully aware that our struggle will still be extremely hard. Stubborn by nature, the U.S. aggressors have not yet reconciled themselves to their defeats.

In response to the Winter-Spring appeal of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and commemorating its 7th founding anniversary with practical deeds, let the South Viet Nam armed forces and people dash forward to strike the enemy still harder, without let-up, and everywhere. No force could hold back our stormy advance under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

** Two legs: armed struggle and political struggle. Three prongs: armed struggle, political struggle, and agitation work among the enemy.*

** A unit regardedas wiped out when it loses 60 per cent of its effectives and its commanding officers are put out of action.*

6 Airfields Shelled : 75 Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged. New U.S. Disaster in Ham Luong River : 15 Vessels Sunk.

BETWEEN Dec. 21, 1967 and Jan. 4, 1968, the P.L.A.F. artillery hammered at 6 airfields, destroying many aircraft and installations.

According to Western news agencies, the P.L.A.F. gunners attacked Da Nang air base at 3 a.m. on Jan. 3, 1968. U.P.I. correspondent reported that cannon shells had been lobbed on the runway and airfield installations for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, at 300m apart, another airfield received a heavy shelling. According to the American command, U.S. losses in these airfields amounted to 21 planes destroyed or damaged.

The following day, the P.L.A.F. pounded An Khe airfield of the First Air Mobile Cavalry Division, while at 150km in the south-west, the airfield and other enemy positions in the centre and suburbs of the town of Ban Me Thuot had been bombarded by the P.L.A.F. At least 15 reconnaissance planes had been destroyed or damaged at Ban Me Thuot. Enemy losses at An Khe would be very heavy, reported western agencies.

In the closing days of 1967, the P.L.A.F. succeeded in assaulting two other airfields in Nam Bo. On the night of Dec. 21, at Can Tho. the biggest town in the Mekong Delta, 130 km southwest of Saigon, the P.L.A.F. destroyed or damaged 27 aircraft in the airfield.A few hours later, at Lai Khe, base of the U.S. First Infantry Division, 50km north of Saigon, 12 helicopters were destroyed or damaged, including two giant Chinooks.

HAM LUONG, one of the arms of the Mekong river flowing across Ben Tre province, has just witnessed a new victory of the guerillas over the U.S. naval forces. The Yankees had set up at 27km southeast of Ben Tre town, on the Ham Luong river, a base composed of a big vessel of 250 metres long, registration number HQ.821, 12 landing craft and 4 motorboats.

On Dec. 29, 1967, at 10.45 p.m., breaking through the enemy defence line, the P.L.A.F. poured a heavy rain of shells on the flotilla. The HQ.821 took fire and sank at 5 a.m. the next day, sending to the bottom 500 men on board composed of American sailors and technicians. The 4 motor-boats as well as 12 landing craft met the same fate.

A position defended by a Thai company of the *Queen's Cobra* Regiment northeast of Saigon was stormed by the P.L.A.F. on the night of Dec. 20, 1967. This was the first staggering blow dealt at these mercenaries: 120 men of the garrison were buried under the ruins of the razed camp.

Meanwhile, in a village of the same region, a surprise attack was launched against a group of 30 U.S. tanks and armoured cars. After a 20 minutes' fighting, the P.L.A.F. destroyed all these vehicles, put out of action 200 G.I.s and seized a great quantity of weapons and military equipment.

ON the night of Dec. 19, the P.L.A.F. got control over Bac Lieu town for 5 hours running. They blew up an administrative building, 2 barracks, 1 blockhouse, 1 bridge and caused 40 casualties among the enemy including the superintendent of police and his assistant.

POWERFUL DEVELOPMENT...

(*Continued from page 3*)

troop transports. They broke into these places and called on the youths not to go and die a senseless death in this country. In other gatherings thousands of American youths burnt their draft-cards and in some cases they dipped them in blood, then returned them to their governments. Hundreds of thousands of people assailed the premises of the Pentagon, paralyzing part of the activities of this top war making organ. Workers and youths indignantly demonstrated in front of chemical plant factories protesting against the production of napalm for the Viet Nam war. Black Americans called on their kith and kin in the U.S. expeditionary force to go home and take part in the struggle against racial repression in the U.S. itself. Braving the terroristic actions of the authorities, the youths resolutely oppose drafting. Many of them chose imprisonment rather than enlistment. For the same purpose thousands of others left their country.

The movement of the American people against the U.S. war of aggression has over the past year made an initial impact on American troops. A number of these resolutely refused to serve in Viet Nam or once they had been sent there, to go to the theatres of operations. In October 1 mutiny broke out, involving several hundreds of G.I.'s of Infantry Brigade 198 stationed at Fort Hood. The mutineers firmly opposed their being dispatched to Viet Nam. Four G.I.'s left the *Intrepid* when it called at a Japanese port for the U. S. S. R. where they condemned the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war. Others, who had been to Viet Nam, recently raised their voices to denounce U.S. barbarous crimes before the International Tribunal for investigation of U.S. war crimes.

The evolution of the American people's movement against the U.S. war of aggression is inevitable. This war is completely at variance with the traditions of liberty and democracy of the American people with their aspirations for peace and friendship, it brazenly flouts the most elementary principles of law, justice and ethics. It is a colonial war of the worst type. The extremely barbarous and cruel crimes perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists against the Vietnamese people have aroused indignation among the whole of mankind. The Yankee aggressors are condemned and cursed by the world's people. They have besmeared the honour of the American people. Never before has the United States been so isolated and protested as today. Struggling against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam, the American people act also for the preservation of their finest traditions, of what in their conscience they regard as right, as well as for the safeguard of the honour of the United States that Johnson and company, due to their shameful war, have plunged deep in slush. Clearly, this, as many American papers put it, is "the most unpopular war in U.S. history." It is equally clear that the United States has never faced an anti-war movement of such size and strength; never, too, has a U.S. president been so hated by the American people as "the war president, the napalm-killer of children" — Lyndon Johnson.

The movement of the American people against the Viet Nam war is a struggle against the American imperialist aggressors in the very heart of the United States. It constitutes another front of the fight to defeat the U.S. aggressors and bring to a close the war unleashed by them in Viet Nam. It must be co-ordinated with our struggle for national salvation; it lends us a valuable support. Our people warmly hail the new step made by this movement in 1967 and unite with the American people against U.S. aggressive imperialism, the common enemy of the two peoples and of mankind.

QUANG THAI

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

7 YEARS OF STORMY ADVANCE

Excerpts from the recapitulative communiqué of **Giai Phong Press Agency** *•*

THIS year, in an atmosphere of boundless enthusiasm, the South Viet Nam people celebrated the 7th anniversary of the founding of the National Front for Liberation — their sole and authentic representative, the organizer and leader of all their splendid victories.

On all the fronts of the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, we have been winning tremendous victories.

The gunfire to destroy the enemy in the early months of the current Winter-Spring period has been brisk on all battle-fronts from Con Tien, close to our beloved North, down to Point Ca Mau, the southernmost part of our Fatherland. Within a short period from October 22 to November 24, 1967, according to still incomplete data on the major victories, the heroic South Viet Nam armed forces and people wiped out or decimated 26 enemy battalions, including 12 U.S battalions, and many U.S., puppet and satellite companies. In the rural areas as well as urban centres controlled by the enemy, our people have successively risen up to smash the enemy's grip, and to different degrees, have wrested power back from the U.S. quislings.

Commemorating the founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., we proudly look back to the road we have travelled, and the achievements recorded, and draw lessons for our action.

SEVEN YEARS UNDER THE N.F.L. BANNER

THE birth 7 years ago of the N.F.L. was an historic necessity, *an irresistible demand of the struggle of the South Viet Nam people for self-liberation* against U.S. imperialism and the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet regime. That struggle, waged through a skilful combination of political struggle and armed actions, began with the uprising of the people in Tra Bong area (Quang Ngai province) and developed into a high tide of concerted uprisings in the Mekong River Delta. It required the existence of a powerful organization to lead and guide them. Thus, the founding of the N.F.L. was a turning point in the second resistance war ** of the South Viet Nam people, and enabled it to make giant steady strides.

With the line of invincible people's war of the N.F.L., the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have unceasingly grown up in all aspects and have won ever bigger victories in the process of the fighting. The guerilla movement has extensively developed in the mountain regions, the plains and the coastal areas. With a high political awareness, an ardent patriotism and an implacable hatred for the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have overcome innumerable difficulties and hardships, resolutely and repeatedly attacked the enemy, and won victory after victory.

Our success increased rapidly in these seven years of struggle. Since 1965, each year the number of enemy casualties have increased by 100,000, that of aircraft downed or destroyed by 1,000 and that of armoured vehicles 3 times. These figures testify to our quick growth and the importance of enemy's losses. In a year, the U.S. aggressors lost one fourth of their 400,000 strong army and then one third of their 470,000 strong expeditionary force. Their losses in aircraft and armoured vehicles increased in proportion to the number engaged. this year, from 70 to 90 per cent of U.S. aircraft and armoured vehicles must be replaced or overhauled.

We have successively foiled all the modern tactics of the enemy — "armoured car," "helibourne"... We have battered all kinds of crack troops of the U.S. and its puppets: "Black Tigers," "Golden Eagle," Marines, " Air Mobile Cavalry Division ", the 198th Light Infantry Brigade***. We have smashed all the adventurous plans of the U.S. warmongers such as the Staley — Taylor plan, the "two pronged" plan, frustrated the strategy of "special war," and "local war" of the enemy.

During the past seven years, up to December 13, 1967, the Liberation Armed Forces and people of South Viet Nam put out of action nearly 1.5 million enemy troops, including over 300,000 U.S. and satellite troops, wiped out 181 battalions, and 982 companies of the U.S. and Saigon puppet army.

The armed forces and people of South Viet Nam shot down or destroyed on the ground 8,590 enemy war planes, destroyed 15,835 military vehicles including 5,767 armoured cars, sunk 463 war vessels and combat launches, overrun 2,704 enemy posts and blew up 1,302 bridges.

In addition to their three kinds of armed forces which have been growing up vigorously, the South Vietnamese people have formed a special army—*an army comprising over 2 million members fighting on the political front.* In the past 7 years, with nearly 120 million participants (each member taking part many times—Ed.), this mammoth army has been on the offensive side by side with the armed forces and has scored great successes — to limit the savage onslaughts by the enemy, to propagate the just cause of the people, and to expose the barbarous crimes of the enemy.

The urban areas under the temporary control of the enemy have become real active volcanoes for the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Tens of millions of people have turned out into the streets for protest actions. Certain actions have drawn in nearly 1 million participants, such as the struggle of Buddhist believers in Saigon on June 16, 1963, on the strike by 200,000 workers which virtually paralyzed Saigon on September 21, 1964.

Once in Da Nang, with their political and armed might, the masses controlled the city for more than two months.

The struggles waged by the urban people contributed to the overthrowing of the dictatorial regime of Ngo Dinh Diem and many of his successors. It is in the towns and cities that the people are being trained and prepared for bitter struggle, to reach the goals set by the N.F.L., i.e. independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity.

Another extremely important achievement of the South Vietnamese people in the last 7 years has been the *emergence of a vast liberated zone* covering four-fifths of the territory and inhabited by two-thirds of the population of South Viet Nam. In this liberated zone the people have asserted their role as their own masters, through various forms such as self-management committees, people's committees, mass organizations, etc.

Health service and educational, cultural and art activities have been continuously developing for the good of the people. Under the leadership of the Front the people are fully enjoying democratic liberties, and are being cared for materially and culturally.

As a result, despite fierce attacks, shellings and the sprayings of noxious chemicals by the enemy to massacre them and ruin their crops, the people in the liberated areas are resolutely clinging to their land for production and fighting, faithful to their slogan "Not to yield an inch of land."

DEFEATING THE U.S. "LOCAL WAR"

1966 and 1967 in particular marked an extremely acute stage in the struggle between our people and the aggressors.

Following the failure of the "special war" and with the puppet army and administration seriously disintegrating, U.S. President Johnson in

(Continued page 6)

• Subheads and boldface emphases are ours.

•• The first resistance war was waged against the French colonialists from 1945 to 1954.

••• Newly created by the Pentagon.

Art performance for the P.L.A.F. fighters

A market in the liberated zone

Index 13624 — PRINTED IN HANOI — Signed for printing on Jan. 6, 1968